**U.S. Department of Labor**

Mine Safety and Health Administration
201 12th Street South, Suite 401
Arlington, Virginia 22202-5452

FEB 07 2019

Paul Gottinger
MuckRock News
Dept MR 67344
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request Acknowledgment – Tracking No. **872927**

Dear Mr. Gottinger:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt on January 22, 2019 of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated January 12, 2019 addressed to MSHA. Your request has been assigned Tracking Number **872927**. Please refer to this number in any future correspondence relative to your FOIA request.

You have requested the following documents, records, or information:

> A copy of records documenting the number of employees of the Mine Safety and Health Administration who were terminated/retired, or left the office for any reason, for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, as well as a copy of records documenting the number of new employees hired to work for the Mine Safety and Health Administration in the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018.

We estimate that you will receive a response within 20 working days of the date of this letter.

Please note that FOIA applies to existing records and does not require agencies to conduct research or generate documents based on that research. The FOIA requires that agencies generally disclose records unless agencies are authorized or required to withhold requested records, either in whole or part due to one or more of the nine established exemptions.

Pursuant to 29 CFR Section 70.19(e) and 70.40, by filing your initial request, you have agreed to pay up to $25 in satisfaction of certain fees associated with gathering the information you have requested. If we estimate that your fees are likely to exceed $25 or another amount that you have already consented to pay, we will notify you. Reference 29 CFR Section 70.42(c).

For information about FOIA practices and procedures, please visit our website at www.msha.gov or visit the DOL website at www.dol.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan Hutton
Acting Director
Administration and Management